

ADD/ADHD vs Gifted Behavior

Behaviors Associated with ADD/ADHD (Barkley, 1990):

- Poorly sustained attention in almost all situations
- Diminished persistence on tasks not having immediate consequences
- Impulsivity, poor ability to delay gratification
- Impaired adherence to commands to regulate or inhibit behavior in social contexts
- More active and restless than normal children
- Difficulty adhering to rules and regulations

Behaviors Associated with Gifted (Webb, 1993):

- Poor attention, boredom, daydreaming in specific situations
- Low tolerance for persistence on tasks that seem irrelevant
- Judgment lags behind intellect
- Intensity may lead to power struggles with authorities
- High activity level, may need less sleep
- Questions rules, customs, and traditions

Source: Webb, J.T., Amend, E.R., Webb, N.E., Goerss, J., Beljan, P., & Olenchak, R.F. (2005). Misdiagnosis and Dual Diagnosis of Gifted Children and Adults. Scottsdale, AZ: Great Potential Press